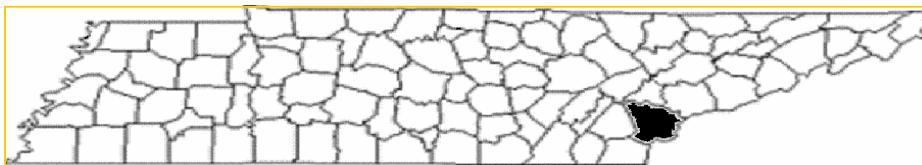


The Status of Women in Monroe County



STATUS OF WOMEN IN MONROE COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

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INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	65.40	83
Women's Annual Earnings	\$21,064	44
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	71.1%	54
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	40.5%	67
Female Unemployment Rate	8.5%	86
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	23.9%	76
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	53.00	57
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	24.1%	35
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	8.7%	70
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	67.7%	60
Female High School Dropout Rate	7.3%	53
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	91.5%	51
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	16.3%	55
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	7.9%	26
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	39.7	74

Report Overview: This publication on the Status of Women in Monroe County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

MONROE

Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of women in managerial or professional occupations.

- ◇ Women in Monroe County earn a median annual salary of \$21,064 compared to the median annual earnings of their male counterparts which are \$29,621.
- ◇ Though Monroe ranks 44th among counties for women's median annual earnings, Monroe ranks 54th among counties for wage gap (71.1%).
- ◇ Women in Monroe County are 6% less likely to work than women in nearby Knox County, and the current female unemployment rate is pushing 8.5% which is high compared to the overall unemployment rate in the county (7.5%).
- ◇ Among all working individuals in Monroe County, 19.0% work in managerial or professional occupations, but when only female workers are considered, that number increases slightly to 23.9%.

Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ There are close to 5,000 women in the county who did not graduate from high school, and the current female high school dropout rate is over 7 percent. However, just 66.7% of all county residents have their high school degree or the equivalent while 67.7% of women in the county have their high school degree.
- ◇ 8.7% of women have a four-year college degree while 10.1% of county residents have such a degree. Though higher percentages of women have a high school degree, higher percentages of men have a bachelor's degree.
- ◇ Over 16 percent of employed women in the county currently earn below poverty-level incomes.
- ◇ Though 12.0% of all county families are living in poverty, 28.2% of female-householder families with no husband present live below poverty level.
- ◇ Despite making up 24.1% of the privately-owned businesses in Monroe County, women-owned businesses only account for 6.7% of the total sales and receipts of private firms in the county.
- ◇ Women account for 50.7% of the county population and for 51.6% of eligible voters, but 3 out of 17 elected county officials are women.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

MONROE

		Monroe County	Rank of Mon- roe County	Highest Ranking County
Earnings	Median Annual Earnings for FT Females	\$21,064	44	Williamson: \$32,243
	Wage Gap	71.1%	54	Davidson: 82.1%
Employment	Female Labor Force Participa- tion Rate	40.5%	67	Rutherford: 50.9%
	Female Unemployment Rate	8.5%	86	Pickett: 1.5%
	Percent of Employed Females in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations	23.9%	76	Anderson: 44.6%
	Women Owned Business % of Total	24.1%	35	Moore: 63.3%
Education	% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better	8.7%	70	Williamson: 39.5%
	% of Females with High School Diploma (or equiva- lency)	67.7%	60	Williamson: 90.6%
	Female Dropout Rate	7.3%	53	Clay/Pickett: 0.0%
Lifestyles	% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Coverage	91.5%	51	Williamson: 100%
	% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	16.3%	55	Williamson: 5.4%
	% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	7.9%	26	Williamson: 2.5%
	Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	39.7	74	Williamson: 1.2%

ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Monroe County

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at www.tennesseewomen.org

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties